

Message Text

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SECDEF WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2027

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL
POLITICS

1. SUMMARY PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ ON MARCH TURNED A 15 MINUTE
COURTESY CALL BY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS HOLLOWAY INTO A 50
MINUTE VIRTUOSO PRESENTATION ON SPAIN'S INTERNATIONAL AND
NATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN ARGUING FOR CONTINUED CLOSE
UNITED STATES SPANISH COLLABORATION AND ENHANCED UNITED STATES
ASSISTANCE. IN PROCESS HE GAVE STRONG INDICATION HE WOULD
RUN IN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO DIVIDED
POLITICAL CENTER, END SUMMARY.

2. RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.
PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ RESPONDED TO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY'S OPENING
REMARKS ON UNITED STATES SPANISH RELATIONS WITH EXPOSITION
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ON EUROPE SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES THAT MAY BE SUMMARIZED
AS FOLLOWS. ONE MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT EUROPE BECAUSE OF
THE AGING OF THE THE REST OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN
POPULATIONS RELATIVE TO THOSE OF EASTERN EUROPE AND
THE GROWING ACCEPTANCE IN WESTERN EUROPE OF THE INEVITABILITY
OF THE ADVANCE OF EUROCOMMUNISM. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN
ITALY AND FRANCE WERE PARTICULARLY DISQUIETING. HE PERSONALLY

DID NOT ACCPET THE THESIS THAT EURCOMMUNISM WAS OR
COULD BE DEMOCRATIC OR INDEPENEDNT. HE CITED WHAT HE SAID HAD
HAPPENED AT THE RECENT MEETING OF CARRILLO, BERLINGUER
AND MARCHAIS IN MADRIDM CARRILLO HAD WANTED TO CONDEMN THE
SOVIET UNION AND HAD THOUGHTHE HAD THE AGREEMENT OF BERLINGUER.
BUT IN THE END NEITHER BERLINGUER NOR MARCHAIS HAD SUPPORTED
HIM IN THIS DEISRE PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FORM MOSCOW
SUAREZ DID NOT BELIEVE ANYTHING WAS INEVITABLE IN HISTORY.
HE THOUGHTSTRONG, YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERSHIP COULD CHANGE
THE COURSE OF EVENTS. SPAIN WAS THE ONLY WESTERN EUROPEAN
NATION WITH A YOUNG POPULATION, AND IT WAS DEVELOPING YOUNG
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. IT WOULD NO LONGER BE "DIFFERENT" ONCE
IT WAS DEMOCRATIZED, AND IT WOULD THEN BE IN POSITION TO
PLAY A MUCH STRONGER ROLE IN FOREIGNAFFIARS THAN IN THE PAST. ITS
GOOD RELATIONS AND COMMON INTEREST WITH PORTUAGAL WOULD BE HELPFUL.
THE BEDROCK OF ITS FOREIGN RELATION SHOULD BE IT CLOSE
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. SOME SPANIARDS CIRITICIED
THE UNITED STATES AND IT MILITARY PRESENCE IN SPAIN FOR
SUPPOSED POPULAR POLITICAL EFFECT. BUT THE TRUTH WAS THAT
THERE WAS A GREAT AFFINITY BETWEEN THE SPANISH AND AMERICAN
PEOPLES AND MUTUALLITY OF VALUES AND INTEREST. FROM THE
WEEKLY POLLS THAT HE WAS TAVING TAKEN HE KNEW THAT 69 PERCENT
OF THE SPANISH POPULACE WAS POLITICALLY MODERATE AND 83
PERCENT OF IT OPPOSED COMMUNISM. A SECOND BASIC ELEMENT
OF SPANISH FOREIGN RELATIONS SHOULD BE A MUCH STRONGER
POLITICAL AND MILITARY ROLE IN EUROPE. THIS SHOULD COME
QUICKLY. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITH EUROPE RAISED GREATER
PROBLEMS AND COULD BE LEFT TO LATER, EUROPE WAS MAINLY INTERESTED
IN SPAIN AS A CONSUMER. TO PLAY IT S PROPER
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ROLE SPAIN NEEDED A STRONG MODERNIZED MILITARY ESTABLISHED
AND FOR THIS IT NEEDED UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE. THE
TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION SHOULD BE AUTHENTIC
(HE REPEATED THE WORD AUTHENTIC THREE TIMES FOR EMPHASIS)
THE SPANISH NAVY, IN PARTICULAR, ESPECIALLY NEEDED MODERN AMPHIBIOUS
CRAFT AN AIRCRAF CARRIER TO BRIDGE THE TIME GAP BETWEEN THE AGING
DEDALO AND ACQUISITION OF A SEA CONTROL SHIP CAPABILITY
(HERE PRIME MINISTER SUARES ECHOED PRE-
CISELY WHAT MINISTER OF THE NAVY PITA DE VEIGA HAD ASKED FOR
DURING HOLLOWAY'S PRIOR MEETING WITH HIM) ADMIRAL
HOLLOWAY TOLD PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ THAT HIS PRESENTATION ON
THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITE STATES SPANISH COOPERATION CLOSELY
PARALLELED THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AT THE
HIGHEST LEVELS.

3.THE PRIME MINISTER THEN OFFERED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
INCLUDING THOSE ON POLITICIS. THE CHARGE ASKED WHAT POLITICAL
GROUP OR GROUPS WOULD LEAD THE 69 PERCENT OF SPANIARDS
WHO BY SUAREZ POLLS MADE UP THE MODERATE POLITICAL CENTER.

4. SUAREZ RESPONDED WITH APPARENT RELISH THAT POLITICAL GROUP NOW DID. AND THAT WAS WHY HE WAS CONSIDERING DIRECTLY ENTERING THE POLITICAL FRAY. HE ORIGINALLY HAD PLANNED TO STAY OUT OF THE ELECTIONS. BUT HIS OVERIDING OBJECTIVE HAD BEEN FOR THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS AND WA FOR THE FUTURE AVOIDANCE OF POLITICAL POLAIZATION IN SPAIN AND ACHIEVEMENT OF LASTING PEACEFUL POLITICAL EVOLUTION RATHER THAN VIOLENT POLITICAL RUPTURE HE WAS NOW CONCERNED THAT IF HE DID NOT RUN IN THE ELECTIONS THE CENTER WOULD BE TOO FRAGMENTED AND THE EXTREMES WOULD BE TOO STRONG. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DID NOT WANT A SITUATION IN WHICH THE CENTER WAS SO STRONG THAT IT WOULD OVERWHEM BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT. A COMMON MISANT IN SPANISH POLITICAL WAS THE ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE TOO DOMINANT A POSITION. THEREFORE, HE WOULD NOT TRY TO FORM ONE PARTY EMBRACING ALL OF THE CENTER. INSTEAD HE WOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE A OLITION OF THE MODERATE CENTER BOUNDED ON

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ONE SIDE BY THE "RIGHT WITH A TENDENCY TO RADICALIZE" AND ON THE OTHER BY THE MARZIST LEFT. HE WAS NOT IN PERSONAL DISAGREEMENT WITH COMMUNISTS PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS, THE BATTLE AGAINST COMMUNIST SHOULD BE FOUGHT ON DIFFERENT GROUND.

5. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CLEARLY PREPARED TO TAKE ALL THE TIME NECESSARY TO STRESS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE FASHION HIS VOCATION FOR CLOSE UNITED STATES SPANISH COLLABORATON IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE NEED FOR UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDING AND ASSISTANCE. WITH REGARD TO INTERNAL POLITICAL WHILE HE DID NOT SAY. IN ANSWER TO THE MAIN POLITICAL QUESTIONS OF THE DAY HERE. FINALLY AND DEFINITELY THAT HE WOULD RUN IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS HE GAVE EVERY IMPRESSION OF A MAN WHO WAS AT LEAST VERY CLOSE TO HAVING MADE UP HIS MIND TO DO SO. AT THE SAME TIME. SUAREZ GAVE NO INDICATION OF JUST HOW HE PROPOSED TO RUN, A QUESTION OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE. IF HE SHOULD RUN, AS HE SEEMED TO IMPLY, IN SOME FASHION THAT KEEPS HIM ABOVE RIVAL CENTERIST GROUPS, THEN SUAREZ WOULD AVOID THE RANCOR, AND THE LOSS OF CREDIBILITY HERE AND IN EUROPE THATTHE CONSTRUCION OF A UNDULY PARTISAN SUAREZ LED "OFFICIAL" PARTY WOULD CREATE. THE AVILA FORMULA (SEPTTEL) IN WHICH SUAREZ WOULD RUN AT THE HEAD OF AN INDEPENDENT LIST FROM HIS SMALL HOME PROVINCE IS BEING TALKED OF A A WAY OF AVOIDING THE RISKS OF PLAYING FAVORITIES. IN THE CENTER.EATON

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Message Attributes

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